

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/808,408

Examiner

Tara L. Bolton

Applicant(s)

TANIKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application number 10/808408, amended 01/04/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12 and 16-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

The following is a detailed action on the merits of application 10/808408 amended on 01/04/2006.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art of record fail to disclose or render obvious a planetary gear structure comprising a carrier possessing a plurality of bores with a plurality of pinion shafts positioned in each of the bores, as recited in claim 1, more specifically, having at least three stopper plates positioned between adjoining pairs of the pinion shafts and engaging two different pinion shafts to rotationally fix the pinion shafts against rotation relative to the carrier as described in the claim.

Prior art of record fail to disclose or render obvious a planetary gear structure comprising a carrier possessing a plurality of bores with a plurality of pinion shafts positioned in each of the bores, wherein the pinion shafts are provided with a slit, as recited in claim 4, more specifically, a plurality of stopper plates arranged between the pinion shafts and engaging the slits of the pinion shafts to fix the pinion shafts against rotation relative to the carrier as described in the claim.

Prior art of record fail to disclose or render obvious a planetary gear structure comprising a plurality of pinion shafts mounted in a carrier, as recited in claim 16,

more specifically, a stopper plate arranged between a pair of pinion shafts to fix each of the pinion shafts against revolution about its own axis, wherein the stopper plate has side portions which engage one of the pinion shafts and the pinion shafts have a slit for receiving one of the side portions, wherein the stopper plate has an inner and outer end portion engaging an inner and outer circumferential wall (respectively) of the carrier as described in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 3,376,761, 6,440,033, 4,901,602, and 4,901,601 disclose planetary gear structures comprising a carrier with a plurality of pinion shafts and at least one stopper plate.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Bolton whose telephone number is 571-272-1649. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

tlb

TJP
3/14/06

Charles A. Marmor 3/14/06
CHARLES A. MARMOR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3681